



Opportunity Living
1890 E. Main St.
Lake City, IA 51449

opportunity

A Newsletter Published by Opportunity Living

OPPORTUNITY LIVING NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT



Opportunity Living is a not for profit corporation serving the Lake City, Rockwell City, and Carroll area of Iowa, whose purpose is to offer housing and lifestyle choices for adult clients/consumers with developmental disabilities or brain injuries and is licensed or certified by the Dept. of Inspections and Appeals Health Facilities Division or the Department of Human Services. Opportunity Living does not discriminate in the admission of clients/consumers based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disabilities. Opportunity Living offers equal employment opportunities to all employees and applications for employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disabilities, genetic predisposition, or pregnancy. This includes, but is not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

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Back with a SPLASH!

We are back and with a **BIG SPLASH!** We can't thank everyone enough for their contributions to Operation SOS: Save Our Swimming Pool! Because of you our clients and members are finally able to enjoy all of the fun and benefits from being able to swim, once again, in our therapeutic swimming pool! We are also overjoyed to announce that our action-packed water aerobics group is back and splashing again!

Now we are ready to take the next step and **DIVE INTO MORE ACTION** with **Operation SOS2**. We are now raising funds to renovate the flooring/decking around the pool area and hallway of the locker rooms. With these funds we also plan to purchase a pool lift, replace the gutter guards, add lap lanes, lifeguard chairs, and new ladders. We plan to upgrade pool equipment for classes and swimming lessons and add new tables and chairs for seating around the pool area. We will also apply a fresh coat of new paint to the area! The facelift will be so wonderful for the clients, staff, and community members to enjoy!

Save the Date!

We are excited to host our Annual FUNdraising Banquet filled with great food, fun and informational short program, and entertainment by Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos!



Watch Facebook and our website for more information soon! If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, please call Jayne Wilhelm at 712-464-8961 or email her at jwilhelm@opportunityliving.org



happy
FALL
y'all



Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/opportunityliving

Shannon's Sentiments

Mark Twain, wrote "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear, and the blind can see." As many of you know, Opportunity Living was in the path of a tornado that went through Lake City. First and foremost, no one was hurt! Our most precious clients were safe and well cared for by the MOST dedicated heroes at Opportunity Living. From moments after the tornado, throughout the days following, we were showered with nothing but an unbelievable display of love, community, and kindness. You will see pictures later in the newsletter showing a glimpse of the army that helped Opportunity Living. As I reflect, I don't know how to put into enough words the amount of gratitude that we have for everyone that has and continues to help ease the burden of the tornado. We have much to do, and it is much easier to cope with knowing the love and support surrounding our Opportunity Living family.

- Shannon

Congratulations, Elaine!

Elaine Lange of Rockwell City received a Governor's Award from Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg during a special recognition ceremony held virtually on July 14, 2021.

Elaine was honored with an individual award by Opportunity Living for her service as a volunteer for sewing many needed items for the clients' day-to-day needs and for special needs during the pandemic.

"Reaching out and lending a helping hand is at the core of

who we are as lowans," said Governor Kim Reynolds. "For 37 years, the Governor's Volunteer Award program has recognized those with a deep commitment to serving their communities in unique and meaningful ways. It's truly an honor to recognize their work and convey the gratitude of our state. "More than 790 awards are being presented this year during a ceremony held virtually on July 14. It is estimated that more than 265 communities in Iowa were served by this year's honorees.

"The Governor's Volunteer Award recipients demonstrate a unique commitment to service for others," said Lt. Governor Adam Gregg. "I hope their commitment inspires even more lowans to engage in the gift of volunteering."

Coordinated by Volunteer Iowa, the Governor's Volunteer Award program—now in its 37th year—provides an easy way for Iowa nonprofits, charitable organizations, and government entities to honor their volunteers with a prestigious, state-level award. More information is available at volunteeriowa.org.

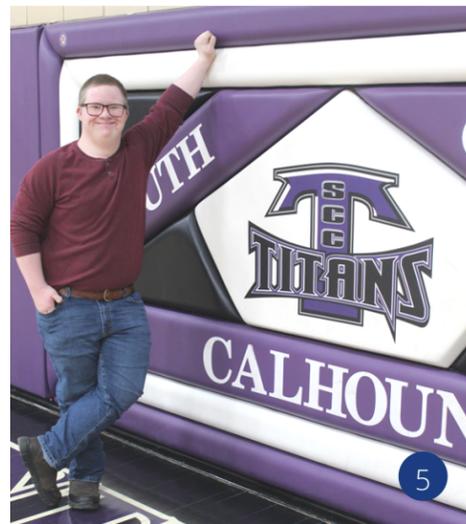
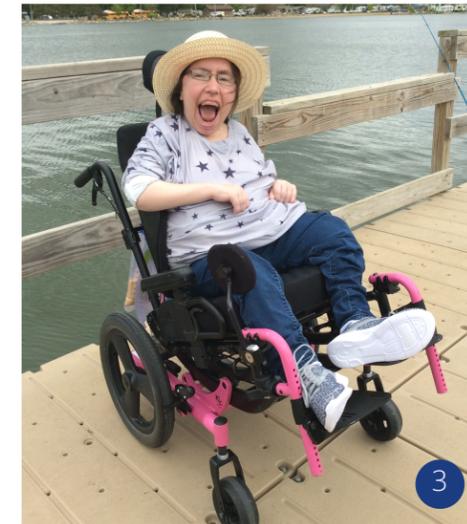
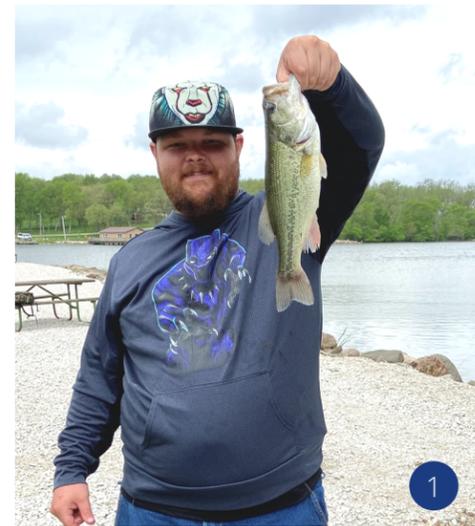


Tony Evans Photography



Proud to be #OppStrong! ❤️

- 1 Scott having fun catching fish in Lake View.
- 2 Richard enjoying the day at the carshow in Lake City.
- 3 Angie enjoying a beautiful day by the lake in Lake View.
- 4 Darcy and Jay looking at a dandelion during one of Darcy's lesson plans.
- 5 We had the most outstanding honor of hosting a Graduation party for John! He graduated as a part of the class of 2021.
- 6 Kelly is enjoying a fun afternoon riding horses at Timber Creek.
- 7 Terry is out enjoying some gardening.



2020-2021 Memorials

David Alrichs
Marilyn Bannister
Alan Berg
Georgiana Bruhl
Alma Caldwell
Tesa Cates
M. Michael Collins
Dale Davis
Carol Doster
Phil Eichhorn
Chris Ellis
Donald Dean Ellis
Alice Fitzgerald

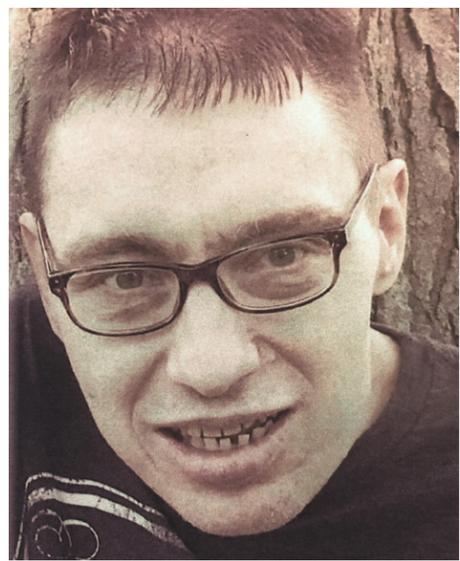
Gladys Fuerstenau
Roger Glasnapp
Robert Hecht
Pat Holtapp
Sheila Janssen
Mike Kehoe
Jim Kitchenmaster
Twyla Kleen
Mike Leavell
Roni Miesner
Bill Mueggenberg
Bernard C. Nelson
Mary A. Nelson

Maryanne Olson
Rosella Schelle
Donita Schrad
Joe Scott
Doug Seavert
Herman Seil
Arlin Sigmon
Larry Skinner
Andy Streeter
Joan Stumpf
John VanDam
Marilyn Winker
Ronald J. Wetter



Thank you to all that continue to honor their loved ones with memorial donations to Opportunity Living. We are so thankful that their spirit lives on and continues to make an impact on the lives of the clients and members of Opportunity Living.

Remembering Grant



Grant was such a lively, charismatic, fun soul with a hilarious, unique personality. Grant loved to play guitar and ride horses and his bicycles. Grant's love and passion for horses had always been so inspiring to watch. Grant loved to joke around and always had the most infectious smile. He was very loving and gave the greatest hugs; he had a great fascination for trains and even game shows. Grant was such a bright light and will be dearly missed by everyone he impacted.

*"Grant's love and passion for horses had always been so inspiring to watch."
Kay Streeter, Opportunity Living staff*

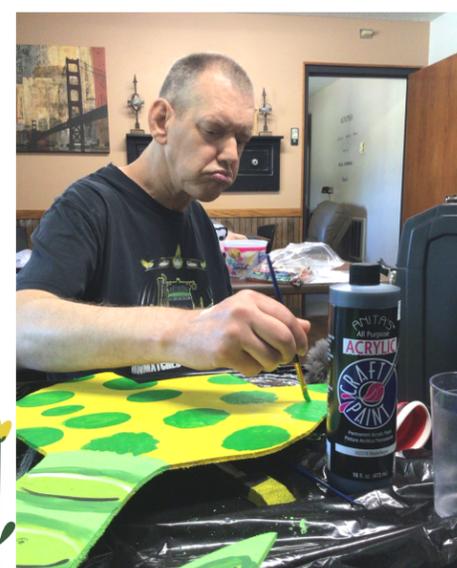


April Showers

Co-Chairs, Jayne Wilhelm and Teresa Irwin, are excited to announce that the April Showers Brings May Flowers event raised \$1855 and counting with funds to be used for client's summer activities!

Thank you so much to the committee (Jayne Wilhelm, Teresa Irwin, Kay Streeter, Patty Sharkey, Stephanie Corey- Patterson, and Jean Lampe.) The wood was donated by Phil Fanning and Jayne Wilhelm, and the flowers were cut out by Mayor John Westergaard from Lake View. We are excited to see all

of the flowers as they are "planted" in their new homes. The clients will also have a hand in creating a unique design for their group home due to our generous donors. THANK YOU to all who helped to paint, to work the event, donate to the summer client activity fund, or buy a piece of art or a kit. We are full of gratitude!



Coming Together

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members"- Coretta Scott King. We have seen so many acts of kindness, selflessness, and caring during our time of need that there are truly no words to show just how much gratitude and appreciation we have for our community. They say it takes a village, I'm not sure who "they" are, but they are absolutely right. Thank you for all of the calls, texts, Facebook messages, and more; we cannot even begin to express our appreciation. A special thank you to the Shady Oaks crew, our neighbors, our staff at Opportunity Living, and their families, the Calhoun County Secondary Roads Crew, Coach Case, his wife Kari, the South Central Calhoun Football Players, and all of the local businesses who reached out for support. We are truly blessed to have such amazing people to support us and our clients, and members in our mission.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! #opstrong21  



South Central Calhoun Football Players during tornado clean up - amazing help!



Calhoun County Secondary Roads Crew worked so hard!



Shady Oaks Crew were so helpful!



Jill Westcott, CFO pictured with our sweet neighbor!

Dueling Pianos November 6, 2021



Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship Benefits



\$2,500



\$1,000



\$500



\$250

Pre Event Recognition

Social Media Promotion

large logo

med logo

small logo

Website Presence

large logo

med logo

small logo

Press Release



On-Site Recognition

VIP Seating



Name on Event Sponsored Banner



Company Literature in Swag Bags



Verbal Introduction



Logo in Slideshow

large logo

med logo

small logo

Logo/Name in Program

large logo

med logo

small logo

name only

Post Event Recognition

Thank You Press Releases



Thank You Facebook Blast

large logo

med logo

small logo

name only

Website Thank You

large logo

med logo

small logo

name only

Company Newsletter



Our Annual FUNdraising Banquet featuring Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos is Saturday, November 6, 2021, from 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Would you like to be a part of this project and be a sponsor? Here is how to "Dive Into More Action" and make a difference in so many lives!



Back to School

Buena Vista University (BVU) and Opportunity Living, of Lake City, Rockwell City, and Carroll, have become Strategic Partners, opening a variety of educational benefits now available to employees of Opportunity Living.

Under the Strategic Partnership initiative, Opportunity Living employees, spouses/domestic partners, and their children may receive grant funding to lower the overall cost of education while enrolled in classes at BVU's Storm Lake campus. Partner grant funding also reduces the cost per credit hour for students enrolled in BVU's convenient online/hybrid undergraduate programs or BVU's online organizational leadership graduate program.



Additional training programs, workshops, and more are also available to Opportunity Living through BVU. "We are excited to expand our benefits package for employees and their families through this Strategic Partnership with Buena Vista University," says Opportunity Living's Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Mahannah, a BVU graduate. "Enabling our employees to access higher education will serve to strengthen them both personally and professionally."

"This is a wonderful development for BVU and for the employees and families of Opportunity Living," says Katie Smith, BVU Director of Strategic Partnerships. "To see staff members and their families receive savings while continuing their education is rewarding. To see how a BVU education can help create stronger communities, and organizations like Opportunity Living is transforming."

"We are proud to be home to 82 clients within 13 homes throughout Lake City, Rockwell City, and Carroll," says Mahannah. "These homes and our Activity Center in Lake City continue to provide opportunities for both clients, their families, and the public. This Strategic Partnership with BVU is but another step in growing our organization and the region it serves through education."

- Opportunity Living is a non-profit provider of outstanding services to adults with intellectual disabilities, licensed for Intermediate Care Facilities with locations in Lake City and Rockwell City, and expanded services to Home and Community-Based Services with locations in Carroll. For over three decades, Opportunity Living staff members have provided individualized health care and rehabilitation services to increase independence and functionality for clients. Employees provide 24/7 care and services to clients to support the organization's overall mission of "Providing Special Persons Opportunities for Living." The organization employs over 250 people, making it one of Calhoun County's largest employers. For more information about Opportunity Living, please visit www.opportunityliving.org.

- Buena Vista University where students dream, innovate and build—taking concepts from state-of-the-art classrooms and labs to real-world applications throughout the U.S. and across the globe. Our commitment to Education for Service, Division III athletics, and experiential learning opportunities provide students with skills sought by employers and community leaders. Our campus on the shores of beautiful Storm Lake hosts students in a variety of in-demand majors, while 11 community college partners across Iowa—as well as graduate programs—expand student potential through a variety of convenient online and hybrid programs. Visit bvu.edu for more.

For more information on Strategic Partnerships and BVU partner opportunities, please visit bvu.edu/strategic-partnerships or contact Katie Smith at SmithK@bvu.edu.

Lending a Helping Hand

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."- Helen Keller. There is no way that we would be so successful if it wasn't for such a kind, giving, and caring Community! By working together over the past few months, we have been so honored to have so many excellent volunteers that have accomplished so much! Boy Scout Troop 94 helped beautify and clean our mini-golf course in Rockwell City, and a group of South Central Calhoun High School students spent an afternoon cleaning up the Activity Center and houses! We were also so honored to have Abbey Mason, an Ameri Corp Vista, on our team. While here, Abbey accomplished so much. Abbey created educational bug books, spent many hours assisting in our gardens, helped enrich our food service program by helping design our new layout and created signage for our new food warehouse. She also created some new healthy recipe options! Abbey spent many hours working on the Rockwell City Gardens with volunteer, Jody Windschitl, and her Granddaughter, Audrey. Thank you again to all of our Volunteers! You are all truly so special to us, and we cannot thank you enough!



Boy Scout Troop 94 cleaning the mini golf course and having some fun!



Two of the many South Central Calhoun students cleaning at the Activity Center.



Abbey, Jody, and Jody's granddaughter Audrey, refreshing the Rockwell City flower gardens.



Pictured above: Jean Lampe, Director of Facilities Management and Abbey Mason, Ameri Corps Summer Vista

Thank you Abbey for all of your hard work this summer!

Opportunity Living Annual Meeting

Date: September 28th, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Opportunity Living
Main Campus
1890 East Main St.
Lake City, IA 51449

Public Welcome - The audited financial report will be presented at this time as well as other business to be scheduled.

Grants Galore!

Iowa Food Bank Association Grant Award



Opportunity Living announces an Iowa Food Bank Association Grant Award, in partnership with the Food Bank of Iowa and the State of Iowa, for \$166,216.80! "We are very grateful to work alongside such top-notch programs. They provide such wonderful opportunities for our organization," says Jayne Wilhelm, Community Relations and Development Director.

Grants were provided to Feeding America food bank partners and are possible due to CARES Act funding. The COVID Relief Partner Agency Grant was administered by the Iowa Food Bank Association, a coalition of six Feeding America food banks banding together to ensure no Iowan lacks proper nutrition.

"Opportunity Living is over the moon excited for this grant. It is helpful in our phase of updating and moving our food to the warehouse formerly known as "Bob's Corner," says Shannon Mahannah, CEO, "We have a wonderful partnership with the Food Bank of Iowa and we receive over 1900 pounds of food donations each month," Mahannah adds. "We will be housing all of our food that is distributed to all of our group homes at that location starting this summer."

"The new location for the food program will provide a streamlined food distribution process for Opportunity Living and will make it possible to accept more donations from the Food Bank of Iowa and local businesses such as farmer's markets who are so generous to Opportunity Living every year. The dietary staff will be able to shop with ease for weekend menu planning, reduce food waste, and will be able to work with the recreation department on food needs for special events and outings. We are so grateful for this grant and our Food Bank partnership," says Jean Lampe, Director of Facilities Management.

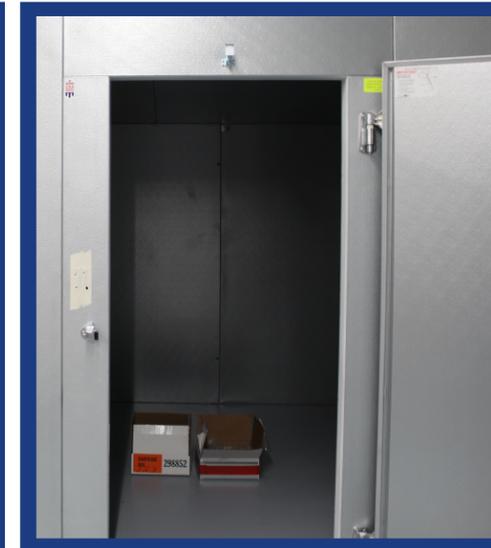
Did you know: Opportunity Living serves over 28,000 total meals to our clients every year? That's a lot of food!

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

Opportunity Living is excited to announce that we are finally out with the old, and in with the new, as our new Food Warehouse is officially debuted. With major contributions from the DNR- Solid Waste Alternative Program grant, as well as the DNR- Solid Alternatives Program/ Storage Capacity Grant,

Opportunity Living was able to remodel and finally move into our very own Food Warehouse!

These grants assisted in contributing to a new walk-in freezer, ramp, shelving, and allowed us to expand the capacity of storage. The new walk-in freezer also allows us the ability to accept a higher quantity, and a bigger variety, of donated food products. Because Opportunity Living receives 1,900 pounds of food donations each month; this new improvement to our organization could not be more needed or appreciated.



Some of the beautiful new shelving, walk-in freezer, walk-in cooler, and ramps are installed at Opportunity Living's new Food Warehouse!

Enterprise Grant

The Enterprise Holdings Foundation has donated \$1,000 to Opportunity Living for operation SOS – Save Our Swimming Pool Project. The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Enterprise Holdings, which, through its integrated network of independent regional subsidiaries and franchises, operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Alamo Rent A Car brands. "We are grateful for the Enterprise Holdings Foundation and their donation to our very important project – Operation SOS", says Jayne Wilhelm, Community Relations and Development Director.